Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 MC-02

COME-00 L-02 H-02 FAA-00 DOTE-00 /087 W

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R 111421Z MAR 75 FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5566 AMEMBASSY PARIS INFO AMEMBASSY CASABLANCA AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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CASABLANCA FOR RCAA

NDJAMENA FOR DATT

E.O. 11652 N/A TAGS: EAIR, CT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: CAR PURCHASE OF SOVIET AIRCRAFT

REF: BANGUI 330 NDJAMENA 541

1. LOCAL SOURCES HAVE CONFIRMED INFORMATION N'DJAMENA REFTEL THAT GOCAR PURCHASED TWO SOVIET AIRCRAFT; ONE CARGO MODEL AN-26 AND ONE PASSENGER MODEL AN-24 PROBABLY TO BE VIP CONFIGURED. BANGUI REFTEL CITED AIRCRAFT MISTAKENLY AS AH-26 BASED ON REPORT IN LOCAL NEWSPAPER WHICH ONLY MENTIONED PURCHASE OF CQRGO MODEL.

2. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT GOCAR PAID 175 MILLION CFA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DOWN (\$833,000 WHEN \$-1 EQUALED 210 CFA). PAYMENT

CAME AT TIME WHEN FRENCH FINANCE MINISTER FOUCARDE
ARRANGING 2 BILLION CFA (\$9,526,809) LOAN TO HELP
GOCAR THROUGH CURRENT FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES. FOURCADE
WHO WAS IN BANGUI FOR SECOND FRANCO/AFRICAN CHEIFS OF STATE SUMMIT,
REPORTEDLY FURIOUS WITH GOCAR FOR INCURRING SOVIET OBLIGATION.

3. THIS IS SECOND TIME IN LAST FEW MONTHS THAT GOCAR HAS PURCHASED SOVIET EQUIPMENT USING FUNDS PROVIDED

BY FRANCE IN COURSE OF BUDGETARY ASSISTANCE. FRENCH PIQUE HOWEVER APPARENTLY HAD NO OVERT EFFECT ON PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO CAR MARCH 5-8.

DALE

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: PROCUREMENT, AIRCRAFT

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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To: STATE PARIS

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